

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough review of the Applicants' application and previous responses. Claims 8, and 13 have been canceled in that they are redundant as indicated by the Examiner. Claims 2, 4, and 16 have been amended as suggested by the Office to overcome objections to informalities. Correction of the informalities has not narrowed the scope of the claims. Claim 32 has been amended to properly depend from Claim 31, thereby providing proper antecedent support. Claims 2-4, 7, 9-12, and 14-32 remain pending in the present application.

The Office is respectfully requested to consider withdrawal of the Final Office Action dated September 29, 2003 for at least the following reasons.

1. CLAIM 2

Claim 2 recites, in part, a first voltage reference node and a second voltage reference node, wherein the first voltage reference node and the second voltage reference node are to provide a common voltage reference. With respect to Li, there is no indication that the voltage nodes relied upon by the Office in rejecting Claim 2, the node connected to V_a and the node connected to V_o , are both voltage reference nodes as recited. In fact, column 6, beginning at line 15 Li states that the anode (V_a) transitions between 0 and 5 volts or 0 and 2.5 volts. This indicates that V_a is not a voltage reference, and hence the node it is coupled to is not a voltage reference node, but is instead a signal node. Therefore, there is no disclosure nor suggestion made by Li of each of the recited elements of Claim 1.

With respect to Consiglio, the disclosed anode and cathode are not coupled to voltage reference nodes wherein the first voltage reference node and the second voltage reference nodes are to provide a common voltage reference as recited in Claim 1. Instead, the anode and cathode of Consiglio clearly indicate different voltage references, V_{ss} and V_{dd} , and not a common voltage reference. For at least these reasons, allowance of Claim 2 is solicited.

2. CLAIM 3

Claim 3 recites the first voltage reference node and the second voltage reference nodes being ground nodes. None of the recited references disclose ground nodes as recited in Claim 3. Therefore the subject matter of Claim 3 is necessarily non-obvious and in condition for allowance.

3. CLAIM 18

With respect to Claim 18, the Examiner indicates that the response regarding connectivity type from the previous action is unconvincing. However, Claim 18 recites an anode node connected to one or more regions, wherein each of the one or more regions connected to the anode node are of a common conductivity type. None of Li, Consiglio, or Duvvury, disclose an anode as recited wherein each of the one or more regions connected to the anode node are of a common conductivity type.

It is respectfully argued that the claim language wherein each of the one or more regions connected to the anode node are of a common connectivity type is definite and does not allow one to pick and choose only one of two regions coupled to a portion of the anode node. For at least this reason, allowance of Claim 2 is solicited.

4. CLAIM 27

Claim 27 recites in part, that the first voltage reference node and the second voltage reference node are to provide a first voltage reference. None of the recited references disclose a first and second voltage reference node to provide a first voltage reference. Instead, the disclosed references disclose the first and second voltage reference nodes connected to different voltage references or to signals.

5. CLAIM 30

The Office rejects Claim 30 as obvious over Li. The Office states that the recited anode coupled to the first n-doped region only through the first p-doped region is an obvious variant. However, no prior art reference is provided indicating the configuration of Claim 30. The Office is respectfully requested to provide support for the assertion that rudimentary thyristors do not

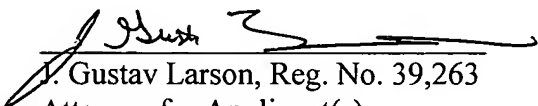
have these structures, and to provide motivation to combine these structures. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 30 is respectfully requested.

Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the Applicant(s) would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to issue a formal Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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